

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**"For Immediate Release"**

February 27, 2020

## **FATAL HOUSE FIRE UNDER JOINT INVESTIGATION, VICTIMS TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED**

**UPDATE: 2/27 at 3:45 p.m.** – Victims tentatively identified pending autopsy. On Wednesday, February 26, just after 11 PM fire and rescue units and law enforcement responded to a house fire at 8113 Dullins Ford Road, in the Orlean area of Fauquier County, and arrived to find the home fully involved in fire. The residence is the home of Richard Lee Thompson, 88, and his wife, Natalie Thompson 83. The Thompsons were reported to be the only occupants of the house, according to neighbors and family.

Once the fire was extinguished, the body of a deceased female was recovered from the residence early Thursday morning. At approximately 1:00 p.m. a second body was recovered from the residence. The deceased are believed to be Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, however, their identity can only be confirmed through forensic examination by the medical examiner. This process will take time to complete thoroughly.

**UPDATE: 2/27 at 2:00 p.m.** – The second victim was located inside the residence at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon. The remains of both victims have been transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Manassas, Virginia.

**WARRENTON** – The Fauquier County Sheriff's Office and the Fauquier County Fire Marshall's Office are conducting a joint investigation into a fatal house fire that occurred overnight. The Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center received a 9-1-1 call just after 11 PM on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, from a caller on Dullins Ford Road. The caller advised their neighbor's house was on fire.

Fire units and law enforcement arrived a short time later to find a single-family home fully involved with some structural collapse. It was determined the home

was occupied by a male and female who were presumed at home and could not be located. The location, in the 8100 block of Dullins Ford Road, is in the Orlean area off of Leeds Manor Road/Route 688.

Earlier this morning, Thursday, February 27, 2020, investigators located the body of a deceased female inside the home. The search for the male occupant continues. The cause and origin of the fire is unknown at this time and is under active investigation by Sheriff's Office fire investigators and the Fire Marshall's Office. Personnel working on the fire scene are being supported by The Bridge Community Church Canteen Unit.

The identity of the deceased is being withheld pending forensic examination by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Manassas, Virginia.



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